

## Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 15

### RESOLUTION CHAPTER 16

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 15—Relative to Save Your Vision Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State April 7, 2003.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 15, Ortiz. Save Your Vision Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of March 2003 as Save Your Vision Month and would encourage all Californians to save their vision through proper eye care.

WHEREAS, Eye health is intrinsically linked to overall health; and

WHEREAS, Healthy vision is a shared responsibility among the government, health care providers, community leaders, and the public; and

WHEREAS, More Americans than ever are facing the threat of blindness from age-related eye disease, according to a report recently released by the National Eye Institute, in partnership with Prevent Blindness America; and

WHEREAS, The report addresses the leading causes of vision impairment and blindness in the United States, including diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, cataract, and glaucoma; and

WHEREAS, Diabetic retinopathy is believed to be a leading cause of blindness in the industrialized world in people between 25 and 74 years of age, affecting more than 5.3 million Americans 18 years of age and older; and

WHEREAS, Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the most common cause of blindness and vision impairment in Americans 60 years of age and older, and more than 1.6 million Americans over 60 years of age have advanced AMD; and

WHEREAS, Cataract is the leading cause of blindness in the world, affecting nearly 20.5 million Americans 65 years of age and older; and

WHEREAS, Glaucoma, a chronic disease that often requires life-long treatment to control, affects about 2.2 million Americans, and another 2 million do not know they have it; and

WHEREAS, Over one million Americans 40 years of age and older are currently blind, and an additional 2.4 million are visually impaired. These numbers are expected to double over the next 30 years; and

WHEREAS, Many eye diseases, such as glaucoma, may cause vision damage and eventually blindness without the patient ever experiencing any symptoms; and

WHEREAS, Blindness and visual impairment from most eye diseases and disorders can be reduced with early detection and treatment; and

WHEREAS, Eye health education that encourages those at high risk for eye disease to have regular dilated eye exams is essential in preventing vision loss; and

WHEREAS, Save Your Vision Month raises awareness among the general public and targets at-risk groups to remind them of the need for regular, comprehensive eye examinations to detect eye health problems, general health issues, and vision difficulties; and

WHEREAS, Save Your Vision Month would further the cause of Healthy People 2010, a national disease prevention initiative sponsored by the United States Department of Health and Human Services which, for the first time, includes 10 vision objectives to address visual impairment due to eye disease and refractive error; regular eye examinations for children and adults; vision screening for preschool children; injury prevention; and vision rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature seeks to improve the vision of all Californians by educating them about the importance of healthy vision and the prevention of vision loss through regular, comprehensive eye examinations; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby proclaims the month of March 2003 as Save Your Vision Month and encourages all Californians to save their vision through proper eye care; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

